



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

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MONTANA

American Indian- and Alaska Native-Owned Firms, 2002

<http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.asp>

American Indians account for approximately six percent of Montana's population while American Indian-owned (AI) businesses represent two percent of all firms in Montana according to recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Economic Census, *Survey of Business Owners*.

Of the 1,990 AI-owned businesses in Montana in 2002, 357 firms employed 1,669 workers with a payroll of over \$30 million and sales of \$181 million. Since 1997, the number of AI-owned businesses grew by 4.1% while total sales increased nearly 30%. Also in 1997, 438 AI-owned businesses employed 1,504 workers who earned \$22.7 million in pay.

AI-owned businesses in Montana in 2002 were concentrated in four industries:

Industry	% of Total
Construction	17.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	13.4%
Other (Consumer) Services	12.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	12.3%

Over thirty four percent of all sales by these businesses were for construction work, by far the largest of all industrial sectors. Construction also employed over 270 workers, again the largest of all sectors.

Six counties in Montana have 100 or more AI-owned businesses. For confidentiality reasons, data are available for only three; Cascade, Glacier and Yellowstone.

Area	Number of Firms	Sales (\$1000s)
Montana	1,990	\$214,562
Cascade	150	\$8,719
Glacier	273	\$10,119
Yellowstone	140	Non Disclosable

Nationally, Montana's AI-owned businesses accounted for 2.6% of all sales in the Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Agricultural Services by all U.S. AI-owned businesses. In the state, 5.1% of all Educational Services firms were American Indian in 2002. (Public education institutions are reported in the State and Local Government sectors.)

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